

# Parish of St Mary, Middlewich & St Margaret Ward, Holmes Chapel

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## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 5th July 2020

Saturday	4th July	4.30pm 6.30pm	<b>Priest's Int.</b> <b>Priest's Int</b>
Sunday	5th July	9.00am 11.00am	<b>Jessie Poziemski Anniv.</b> <b>The Parishioners</b>
Monday	6th July	9.00am	<b>Jessie Eccles Anniv.</b>
Tuesday	7th July	9.00am	<b>Private Int. EJ</b>
Wednesday	8th July	7.30pm	<b>Lisa Maria Barraclough Anniv.</b>
Thursday	9th July	9.00am	<b>Private Int. JS</b>
Friday	10th July	9.00am	<b>Maggie Hannon b'day</b>
Saturday	11th July	4.30pm 6.30pm	<b>Priest's Int. St Benedict</b> <b>Priest's Int.</b>
Sunday	12th July	9.00am 11.00am	<b>The parishioners</b> <b>All Clergy</b>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation : On request**  
**Sacrament of Baptism On hold until further notice.**

### Please Pray for

ALL who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, John Bomford, Nathan Carter, Larry Porter, Gillian Robinson, Tim Bradbury, Roy Yearsley, Peter Hannon, Stan Rosiak, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall Jenny Ogden, John Evans, Shirley Gaskell, Joan Upton, Karen Potts, Mary Morris, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Martin Armitt, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn, Dorothy Worthington.



ALL who have died recently.

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ted Reid, Cathy Boughen, Roger Hazel, Margaret McNeela, Leonard Glynn, James Griffiths, Nora Mitchell, Bridget Clewes, Thomas Loughlin, Gustav Emil Nehrllich, Thomas Cannon, Maud Griffiths, Veronica Ward, William Maddock, Constance Mary Cornwell, Lisa Maria Barraclough, George Bratt, Mary McDermott, Eric Brewer, Fred Bagshaw, Canon Maurice Abbott, Canon Robert Fallon

Please note that all Masses from now on will be public, but with a maximum congregation of 50. The 11.00am Mass on Sunday will also be streamed for those who still cannot attend Mass, but other Masses will not. There is still no Sunday obligation so if you prefer you can come to a weekday Mass. There will be no Exposition this week

**Welcome back to Mass. If you are coming :  
 Wear a mask; Social distance when queuing;  
 sanitise your hands on entry:  
 Follow the one way system and instructions from stewards (wearing aprons to identify them).  
 Communion in the hand only, no chalice. Instructions will be given by Fr Peter. Strict limit of 50, no exceptions. Box for offerings at back of church. Leave promptly, as instructed, at the end of Mass, not before.  
**THERE ARE NO TOILETS AVAILABLE. WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE PARISH CENTRE****

Dear Parishioners,

From now on there will be no more Church Open for \Private Prayer sessions as we will be celebrating public Masses every day. Please do not think this means we are back to normal: There are lots of restrictions and regulations.

Masses can only be held in churches which have been approved as fulfilling the Covid secure conditions , so Mass cannot be celebrated at St Margaret's. Numbers at St Mary's are strictly restricted to 50 per Mass, first come first served, so Fr Peter is celebrating 4 weekend Masses (see opposite for times).

You will only be allowed in if you are wearing a face mask (We cannot provide these: it would cost us £100 + each weekend) The same rules apply to weekday Mass. Masses will be shorter than usual but the good news is that you will be able to receive the Eucharist, but only the host and only in the hand. There is to be no congregational singing, you must remain one metre apart, except from members of your own household, and must sanitise your hands as you enter church. You must enter down the side aisles, sit only in the marked places and exit via the centre aisle. This process, and the numbers, will be overseen by two stewards at each Mass. Please follow their instructions. If 50 people have already entered you will be asked to come to another Mass. There is still no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, so those who can come during the week are encouraged to do so. We hope to continue streaming the 11.00am Mass on Sundays for those who still cannot attend. After each Mass you will be asked to leave promptly and church will have to be closed and thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the next Mass. The provision of the Masses is dependant on there being sufficient volunteers as stewards and cleaners. We have sufficient volunteers for this weekend but offers of help for future weekends and weekdays should be emailed to the parish office. At the beginning of each Mass Fr Peter will give additional detailed instructions. It is important that you listen carefully and follow these. They will include instructions for Communion.

We intend to take the necessary steps to make St Margaret's Covid secure, but due to its restricted capacity, it cannot be used for Sunday Mass until distancing regulations are eased, as doing so would reduce the overall number of parishioners able to attend weekend Masses.

There is a lot to take in and rules may change, but let us not lose sight of the fact that we can once again gather to worship together and celebrate Eucharist. Alleluia!

Fr Peter, Deacon Tony, Deacon Chris

### Online giving to the Parish

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way.

You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

From this weekend, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on request, but outside, not in the Confessional. Please ring or email to make a request.

The printed side of the bulletin is available on the website.

Last week's envelopes yielded a generous £850, higher than our "normal" collection!. Thank you. Offertory baskets will be at the back of church at all weekend Masses. We are not allowed to collect in the normal way

Many of you will already be aware that it has been an eventful week at the presbytery. Fr Peter suffered a minor stroke on Monday. He has had multiple tests at hospital and is on medication. He is feeling fine now and intends to celebrate Masses, but is not allowed to drive for a month, so is unlikely to be visiting parishioners and has to take things easy for a while, so please bear this in mind. He thanks you for good wishes & prayers already received and promised.

**Scripture Group:** Several people have expressed an interest in a scripture group so Deacon Chris has started one every Tues at 7.00pm starting on Tues 23rd June. We use Zoom and look at the scripture (particularly the Gospel) for the following Sunday. If you would like to join in send an email to: [stmarysmiddlewichvents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmiddlewichvents@gmail.com) as we will need your e-mail address to send the Zoom invitation (e-mail addresses will not be used for any other purpose). This is open to anyone, not just parishioners.

What a shock, then, when Jesus starts preaching that these people of the soil among whom he chooses to live as a wandering teacher, homeless and dependent, these people are precisely those who have direct access to God. He will make this absolutely clear, saying in effect: "Blessed are the destitute for theirs is the kingdom of God." If the learned want access to the living presence of God then they must, like Jesus, be alongside those who are destitute and the people of the land.



PEACE AND REST

It is above all these people who recognise the divine voice in Jesus and flock to listen to him. And it is among them that he is able to offer the full reconciling and healing grace of God. He tells parables of wedding feasts where the invited, wealthy and privileged can't be bothered to be in the palace of the king and so he sends his servants out to bring the tramps and foreigners from the backstreets in to celebrate. They will find a true peace and rest in the kingdom of God denied them by the religious authorities and the secular state.

In this little gem of a prayer we are taken into the heart of Jesus' life and ministry and we can see the basis of all that will be developed in our own time in the Church's Social Teaching and in the radical call of Pope Francis to be a poor Church for those who are poor. In doing so we encounter the mercy of God anew, and the call to be a holy people in the midst of our real world. In Jesus' ministry it is clear that it is such lived holiness that is truly contagious.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.**

FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-10

PSALM Psalm 144

RESPONSE **I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.**

Or **Alleluia!**

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **R.**

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:9. 11-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 11:25-30

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 55:10-11  
Romans 8:18-23  
Matthew 13:1-23



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PEOPLE OF THE SOIL

We don't have many examples of Jesus' own personal prayers but if we compare those we have to the other Jewish prayer traditions of his time a distinctive and personal voice emerges.

Prayerfully pondering the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures was the basis of prayer for the elite aristocratic Sadducees. Meanwhile the new renewal movement, the Pharisees, faced with the oppression of the pagan Romans, turned to spirituality. These were lay men and women who deliberately set out to turn their homes into the space of holiness that the Temple was meant to be. They applied all the rules and regulations of the Temple priesthood to the daily lives of their families. The ordinary people admired them even though they couldn't follow the 300-plus laws and regulations which governed every hour of every day of their holy and ritually pure lives. Their holiness separated them from their less holy neighbours among whom they might be contaminated.

Another group, the Essenes, were so scandalised by the corruption of the Temple that they moved out into the desert with their leader, a former high priest, to form radical reform communities preparing for the day when God's Messiah would come and they would be ready to join his forces and re-establish a renewed and truly holy Temple. The prayer demands of their members were even more excessive than the Pharisees. Only the purest of Israel could belong to their movement.

So where did he leave the ordinary mass of people who struggled day by day to make a living from the land or the sea? Taxation under the Romans was heavy, and the Temple also levied a tax on every Jewish working man regardless of whether you lived in Jerusalem in southern Judaea or up in the Galilean hills or in Samaria. These people were often referred to by the holy ones as "the people of the soil". It is easy then for the "people of the soil" to be seen as the "dirty", or soiled, people and an easy slip to "sinners". And if you lived among sinners it was almost inevitable that their contagion would spread. So the "people of the soil" were not regarded as people of prayer.



Catching the kingdom



David McLoughlin is a teaching theologian who has spent nearly forty years helping to train Christian teachers, ministers and activists. In this series of reflections, he considers the Sunday readings.

5 JULY 2020

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II